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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WICHOLAS PLATT
Executive Secretary
Department of State

COLONEL DAVID R. BROWN Executive Secretary Department of Defense

Executive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

CAPTAIN JOHN BITOFF Executive Assistant to the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff

MR. WILLIAM B. STAPSES
Executive Secretary
Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

SUBJECT:

Presidential Statement on New Arms Control Proposal

Attached is the Statement which the President will make today in announcing the new U.S. arms control proposal. It is requested that Secretary Shultz use this text in referring to the new proposal at his press briefing today.

It is important that all Administration Spokesmen adhere to the President's text and do not elaborate on the new proposal at this time. Your cooperation in this regard is appreciated.

William F. Martin Executive Secretary

Attachment Statement

OCTOBER 31, 1985

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA AT THE NUCLEAR AND SPACE TALKS TO PRESENT A NEW U.S. PROPOSAL DESIGNED TO ADVANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING REAL REDUCTIONS IN MUCLEAR ARMS, ENHANCING STABILITY AND ADDRESSING THE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OUR ALLIES, AS WELL AS OF THE SOVIET UNION. I HAVE ALSO ASKED DUR NEGOTIATORS TO SEEK SOVIET AGREEMENT TO EXTEND THIS ROUND OF THE NEGOTIATIONS INTO NEXT WEEK SO THAT OUR NEGOTIATING TEAM CAN MAKE A FULL PRESENTATION OF OUR PROPOSAL AND HAVE A REAL GIVE AND TAKE WITH THE SOVIETS ON ITS DETAILS. FINALLY, & HAVE WRITTEN TO THE LEADERS OF ALLIED NATIONS AND HAVE TRANSMITTED A PERSONAL LETTER TO GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV ON THIS SUBJECT.

- 2 -

HISTORY HAS SHOWN THAT PROGRESS IS MORE SURELY MADE THROUGH CONFIDENTIAL NEGOTIATIONS. THEREFORE, I AM NOT GOING INTO ANY DETAILS ABOUT OUR PROPOSAL.

SUFFICE TO SAY THAT OUR PROPOSAL IS SERIOUS.

IT IS DETAILED, AND IT ADDRESSES ALL THREE AREAS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT BUILDS UPON THE VERY CONCRETE REDUCTIONS PROPOSALS WHICH OUR NEGOTIATORS HAD TABLED EARLIER AS WELL'AS THE RECENT SOVIET COUNTERPROPOSAL.

THE SOVIET COUNTERPROPOSAL WAS FIRST PRESENTED TO ME BY FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE AT OUR WHITE HOUSE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER, FOLLOWING WHICH IT WAS TABLED AT GENEVA BY THE SOVIET NEGOTIATORS. SINCE THAT TIME, OUR ARMS CONTROL EXPERTS HAVE ANALYZED THE SOVIET COUNTERPROPOSAL EXTREMELY CAREFULLY.

THIS ANALYSIS NOW COMPLETED, I HAVE MET WITH MY SENIOR ADVISORS, DECIDED ON OUR RESPONSE AND HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR NEGOTIATORS TO MAKE THIS MOVE.

DURING OUR CAREFUL REVIEW, WE MEASURED
THE SOVIET COUNTERPROPOSAL AGAINST OUR
CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR DEEP, EQUITABLE, AND
VERIFIABLE REDUCTIONS WHICH WE ALREADY HAD
ON THE TABLE AND AGAINST THE CRITERIA WHICH
WE HAVE LONG HELD FOR ATTAINING EFFECTIVE
ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR
THAT, MEASURED AGAINST THESE CRITERIA, THE
SOVIET COUNTERPROPOSAL UNFORTUNATELY FELL
SIGNIFICANTLY SHORT IN SEVERAL KEY AREAS.
AT THE SAME TIME, AS I INDICATED IN MY
ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY LAST WEEK, THE COUNTERPROPOSAL ALSO
HAD CERTAIN POSITIVE SEEDS WHICH WE WISH TO
NURTURE.

OUR NEW PROPOSAL BUILDS UPON THESE POSITIVE ELEMENTS AND CALLS FOR VERY SIGNIFICANT BALANCED REDUCTIONS OF COMPARABLE NUCLEAR SYSTEMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT ARE THE MOST DESTABILIZING. IT IS MY HOPE THAT OUR NEW PROPOSAL WILL ENABLE BOTH OF OUR NATIONS TO START MOVING AWAY FROM EVER LARGER ARSENALS OF OFFENSIVE FORCES. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SEEK IN GENEVA TO UNDERTAKE WITH THE SOVIETS A SERIOUS EXAMINATION OF THE IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE FORCES, AND HOW PEOPLE EVERYWHERE CAN BENEFIT FROM EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL OF NON-NUCLEAR DEFENSES WHICH THREATEN NO ONE.

I AM PLEASED THAT WE SEEM TO HAVE MADE A SUCCESSFUL START ON THIS LONG PROCESS.

THE SOVIET RESPONSE TO OUR EARLIER PROPOSALS AND THE NEW PROPOSAL WHICH WE ARE MAKING ARE IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN MOVING THESE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD.

-5-

ADDITIONALLY, I HOPE WE CAN ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN THE OTHER KEY AREAS OF THE BROAD AGENDA WHICH MR. GORBACHEV AND I WILL DISCUSS IN GENEVA: HUMAN RIGHTS, REGIONAL ISSUES, AND BILATERAL MATTERS. STRENGTHENING THE PEACE AND BUILDING A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE LONG-TERM U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP REQUIRES THAT WE MOVE AHEAD IN ALL OF THESE AREAS. I BELIEVE PROGRESS IS INDEED POSSIBLE IF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP IS WILLING TO MATCH OUR OWN COMMITMENT TO A BETTER RELATIONSHIP.